



PLUMBER DIES IN TRENCH CAVE-IN!

A plumber, John H.*, died when the trench that he was working in collapsed. He entered the trench to connect a sewer line. The trench was more than five feet deep, had no shoring or shields, and had not been benched or sloped. The dirt from the trench was piled on the ground next to the trench. John had started work for his employer the day before the incident. He did not have safety training or an evaluation of his safety knowledge before he started work.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

The trench was more than five feet deep. There was an increased risk of collapse that could trap a worker.

The extra weight of the dirt piled on the edge of the trench helped make the trench unstable.

John was not given safety training before he began work. He may not have understood the risks involved with trench work.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Make sure that trenches deeper than five feet are shored, shielded, sloped, or benched before any workers enter.

Make sure dirt is placed at least two feet away from trench edges.

Make sure workers receive safety training and that their safety knowledge is evaluated before starting hazardous work.

For complete fatality reports of this case (05CA002) or other cases, and information on the California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, contact:

California Department of Health Services
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
or visit our website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact:

Occupational Health Branch at (510) 620-5757
or CA Relay Service at (800) 735-2929

Please allow at least ten working days to coordinate alternate format services.

PLEASE POST

California Department of Health Services
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the **FACE** Program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them. **FACE** is a public health program run by the California Department of Health Services, Occupational Health Branch, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

AUGUST 2006

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
Sandra Shewry, Director
California Department of Health Services

